

~~Top Secret~~

HAITI: Calm Is Superficial

The calm in Port-au-Prince masks tension shared by most working-class Haitians that is fueled by anger over the coup and continuing human rights abuses against supporters of ousted President Aristide.

[REDACTED] workers in the capital still want Aristide to return, and sporadic protests have continued in other cities. A general strike on Monday fizzled, however, in part because of fear of a military crackdown. [REDACTED] senior military officers are more concerned about terrorist attacks than about a popular uprising. A generally reliable source says [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Aristide's support among the poor remains substantial, but a delay in the imposition of tough sanctions or other signs of waning international support for him would give the military-backed regime a boost. Public defiance probably would decrease as most Haitians resigned themselves to getting on with their lives. Pro-Aristide militants probably would then turn increasingly to violence in order to rally antiregime sentiment or to prompt foreign military intervention. [REDACTED]

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19 October 1991